

to every man, woman, and child in America that the days of reckless spending have caught up to us because we do have to have the debate of where we're going to cut. And we are talking about cuts in the areas of homeland security. We better wake up as a body and as a Chamber and recognize that if we don't get our fiscal house in order not only will we jeopardize our national security, we will go bankrupt. That ends America as we know it. And also, it will destroy the American market that we are trying to ignite in our private sector because if we do not send a message that we've got our fiscal house in order, then people are not going to invest in America, and that will not put people back to work and put people back onto a payroll.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

COMMUNICATION FROM LAW REVISION COUNSEL, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Peter G. LeFevre, Law Revision Counsel:

OFFICE OF THE LAW REVISION COUNSEL,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, May 23, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: After 30 years of service in the Office of the Law Revision Counsel and over 34 years with the Federal Government, I have decided it is time to retire. With your approval, my last day as Law Revision Counsel will be June 1, 2011.

I started with the Office just seven years after it was established as part of the Bolling Committee reforms in 1974. The Office was given the functions of classifying new laws to the United States Code, preparing and publishing the Code, and drafting legislation to enact titles of the Code into positive law. Over the years, I have had the privilege of working on each of these functions, and my career has given me a unique perspective on the content and codification of Federal law.

I have had at least a technical familiarity with practically every law enacted during the past 25 years and have worked my way through thousands of laws, including countless appropriations, defense authorizations, tax and health reforms, and omnibus reconciliations. We, in the Office of the Law Revision Counsel, regard the text of these laws with a certain reverence. As we incorporate new laws into the Code, every effort is made

to ensure that each word, each punctuation mark, and each directive they contain is given the effect intended by Congress. With the systems and excellent staff we have in place in the Office, I feel confident that the Code is being maintained with the high degree of accuracy and reliability that is required for the official Code.

While accuracy has always been our highest priority, we have also been working on improving the timeliness and usability of the Code. Since 2005, the time it takes to do an annual update of the Code has been reduced by more than 18 months, and last year we introduced the USCprelim on the U.S. Code website to allow even quicker, albeit preliminary, updates of selected Code titles. As to usability, the Code is about to get a lot better. In a matter of days, we will release a new U.S. Code website featuring a new sophisticated search engine, improved interface, and materials to help the public understand and use the Code. The release will soon be followed by further improvements, including hyperlinks to referenced Code and statute provisions and integration of the USCprelim and prior versions of the Code into the new website. Conversion of the Code data into XML is another ongoing project which should bear fruit in the near future.

The overall organization of the Code remains a concern for me, but significant progress was made during the last several years. The codification of title 46, Shipping, was completed with the enactment of Public Law 109-304, and in just the past six months, Law Revision Counsel bills to enact title 41, Public Contracts, and title 51, National and Commercial Space Programs, became law. Each new positive law title is a major accomplishment, but the time and effort it took to get these three titles enacted indicates the huge task that remains before the goal of an entirely enacted Code is realized.

It has been a pleasure to work for the House of Representatives throughout my career. I have especially enjoyed my association with the other staff members in my office and have a deep appreciation of their expertise and dedication and the fine work they do every day. I am also grateful for the support and cooperation of your office, the Committees on the Judiciary and Appropriations, the Government Printing Office, and the other officers of the House.

Respectfully Yours,

PETER G. LEFEVRE,
Law Revision Counsel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, statements by the Speaker and the Minority Leader are inserted into the RECORD at this point.

There was no objection.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and thank Peter G. LeFevre, Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives, who will retire on June 1, 2011, after 30 years of distinguished service to the House and 34 years with the Federal government.

Throughout his years with the Office of the Law Revision Counsel, Peter has worked tirelessly to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the United States Code. Peter has technical familiarity with practically every law enacted by Congress over the past quarter century. His expertise, hard work, integrity, and commitment to quality have benefitted the House and earned him the deep regard of his colleagues.

As Law Revision Counsel, Peter has significantly improved the procedures for preparing and publishing the Code. He has been instrumental in upgrading the technology used to produce and access the Code. During his tenure, the Office website has been revitalized

and the Code has become much more current in its annual supplement updates. The recent introduction of USCprelim, an advance posting of selected Code titles, has further improved public access to codified Federal legislation. Peter has also been responsible for overseeing the enactment of several non-positive law titles into positive law, a significant accomplishment enhancing the quality and organization of the Code.

On behalf of the House, I would like to commend Peter for his years of dedication and his many contributions to the Federal government, and in particular to the House of Representatives. Peter's diligent service day after day will be an example to those who serve after him. Peter has been a valuable asset to this institution and to his country. We will miss him.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our Law Revision Counsel, Peter G. LeFevre, for his contributions to our Nation's laws, for his commitment to the House of Representatives, and for his service to the American people.

Peter's actions and achievements rarely receive the recognition he and his colleagues deserve; too few know the significance of his accomplishments behind the scenes. But legislators, litigators, lawyers, and anyone interested in the laws of our land rely on his work each and every day.

Since joining the office of the Law Revision Counsel 30 years ago, Peter has been a key member of the dedicated team of non-partisan professionals and experts who revise, prepare, and publish the U.S. Code. He has served under seven successive Speakers of the House of both parties, maintaining the Code, updating it, and drafting legislation to improve the codification of federal law.

Over the past seven years, Peter has led the office, appointed as the Law Revision Counsel by Speaker Dennis Hastert. During his tenure, he oversaw all aspects of the preparation and publication of the Code, ensuring its accuracy and reliability. He has worked on thousands of public laws, including appropriations, defense authorizations, tax and health reforms, and omnibus reconciliations, and guided the Office of the Law Revision Counsel through the many challenges brought on by changes in personnel and technological innovations.

Those of us who are fortunate enough to have known and worked with Peter are grateful for his leadership.

Peter G. LeFevre has left his mark on our laws, on the Congress, on our country's history. For today's lawmakers, his contributions have been invaluable; for generations yet to come, his work will provide an unbroken link to the debates and legislation of the last 30 years.

Peter's many years of dedication to the federal government and to the House of Representatives should be a source of pride to him and his family. We thank and commend Peter for his service, and wish him well in his retirement.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order: ordering the previous question